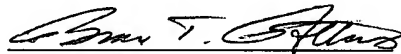


The requirement for election is traversed because the inventions set out by the claims in Species I and II are clearly related. Applicants submit that a thorough search and examination of either Group would be relevant to the examination of the other Group and would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. Additionally, requirements for election are not mandatory under 35 U.S.C. 121. Accordingly, reconsideration of the election requirement is requested.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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